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PAYDIRT

Change of Pace
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Chief Justice and CFO

In addition to Michelle and Dalin, there are two other notable SGA executives: Quincy Bradfield, the Chief Financial Officer, and Nickie Sheerin, the Chief Justice. They are both shown in order below.



SGA Meeting Rundown: 8/27/19

1. Communication between students and the university is a paramount focus for not only the SGA but other offices around campus. **The Miner Weekly Blast was devised to help with these issues, being a one-stop location for information without causing email fatigue.**
2. **A new Miner mascot is being designed and needs submissions.** Send them into *Paydirt* at paydirtnmt@gmail.com and they will be showcased in the next issue!
3. Several buildings are being renovated, besides Brown Hall. **Jones Hall is planned to undergo a complete renovation starting in November.** This was possible due to a surplus in NMT's budget. West Hall will be remodeled in 2020, and it is planned to reopen Fall 2022.
4. **The theme for 49ers might be Steampunk.**
5. **KTEK radio is close to being revitalized,** but there are still many hurdles to go through before it can air. A webcast is planned to be active by 49ers.
6. **The SGA is currently headed towards a \$10,000 deficit.** Worst case scenario: \$25,000 deficit. Best case scenario: \$0 deficit. However, club budgets and the amount of money the SGA can give to clubs has not changed.
7. **NMT is floating the idea of building a brewery on campus in Fidel.** The brewery would allow those under the age of 21 to enter and socialize, but, of course, would not allow them to drink. UNM has recently constructed a brewery as well.



NM Lottery CEO Compensation Grows Faster than Scholarships

The New Mexico Lottery Authority voted during a recent board meeting to raise Lottery CEO David Barden's salary by 26%, from \$174,142 to \$220,000.

The new contract also includes an additional 4% "salary retention adjustment" that will raise the CEO's salary another \$8,800 effective July 1, 2020, and a "car allowance" worth an unspecified amount. In addition, the contract includes a golden parachute provision stating that the CEO will receive \$440,000 if he is terminated "without cause" prior to July 1, 2020, and will be paid his full three-year contract amount (\$677,600) if he is terminated "without cause" before the contract ends.

The CEO's new contract eliminates bonus pay provisions that had existed in his previous contract. Those bonuses could have yielded a total of \$23,509 for Barden, half the \$46,000 increase in the new contract.

"Every dollar going to excessive compensation for the Lottery CEO is a dollar less for college scholarships for deserving New Mexico students," says Fred Nathan, Executive Director of Think New Mexico, a results-oriented think tank that has successfully advocated for reforms to increase the percentage of lottery revenues going to scholarships, rather than overhead expenses.

During the past five legislative sessions, Barden has lobbied in tandem with lobbyists for the international gaming vendors that contract with the New Mexico Lottery. Barden and the vendors have attempted to repeal the law that Think New Mexico authored, guaranteeing that at least 30% of lottery revenues must go to scholarships. The Lottery has delivered an average of \$42 million a year since the 30% guarantee was implemented in 2008, and the schol-

arship fund has received more money every year since the 30% guarantee was enacted than it did in any year before. In 2019, the bill supported by Barden would have lowered the amount delivered to scholarships to \$40 million in 2020, \$40.5 million in 2021, and \$41 million every year thereafter.

Had the Lottery's proposed legislation been in effect this year, the scholarship fund would have received only \$40 million, a decrease from the \$40.2 million delivered in 2018. However, the legislation failed to pass, and under the 30% guarantee, the lottery delivered approximately \$43.2 million to scholarships this year – \$3 million more than last year and an increase of about 7%, despite CEO Barden's claims that the 30% guarantee has "severely hampered" the lottery's performance.

"The Lottery Authority needs new board members who will focus on maximizing dollars for scholarships, consistent with the statutory purpose of the lottery as specified by the legislature," Nathan said.

Members of the New Mexico Lottery Authority are appointed by the governor. All members on the current board were appointed by former Governor Susana Martinez.

"The golden parachute provision in the Lottery CEO's contract is particularly inappropriate as Lottery Authority board members appointed by former Governor Martinez are hand-cuffing future board members who will be appointed by newly elected Governor Lujan Grisham," Nathan said.

Before being hired to run the New Mexico Lottery, Barden helped start the Arkansas Lottery. He left that role after just two years after auditors uncovered evidence of financial mismanagement including improper travel expenses and overtime, reimbursements that exceeded allowable rates, and late payment of federal taxes that resulted in a \$100,000 fine against the lottery. Before leaving the Arkansas Lottery, Barden reimbursed it for \$1,000 in travel costs and 135 hours of comp time he had taken.



Letter from the Editor

Paydirt has undergone quite a few changes in the past few years. The entire staff was not hired back at the end of Spring 2016. The main cover of Paydirt has had a major morph over 6 times in the last 4 years. The Editor-in-Chief has changed over 4 times in the same amount of time. The Stall Streets were phased out and brought back again. Despite all these changes, Paydirt has managed to consistently provide a variety of useful information to our readers.

We covered when the state wanted to push a 120 credit hour maximum and Dr. Ostergren pushed back. We covered Dr. Wells signing on as the new President. We covered the 2017 49ers debacle as well as the 2017 SGA embezzling case. We covered various clubs, restaurants, and more all throughout Socorro. We covered the many areas of research throughout the departments on campus. And we covered cooking. That's right, cooking.

Paydirt has been a voice to the student body unlike anything else on campus. Reporting on a wide array of topics and events, we strive to give students the news they need to hear, or maybe don't know they need to hear, mixed in with the news about, well, cooking, for one. We may have phased in and out of quality and quantity a few times, but despite this, we have remained a part of NMT's identity. You can even hear it in our name, Paydirt.

As I take over for Joshua this year, I plan to give you both quality and quantity. I plan to give you news on clubs and various school events. I plan to give you information about ongoing things within the SGA and administration. I plan to meet and exceed. And I plan to give you a sense of pride for your college newspaper.



Go. See. Do.

"People love chopping wood. In this activity one immediately sees results." - Albert Einstein

Odds and Ends about Socorro

At convocation this year, one new student asked a very astute question: "Is there anything to do around Socorro??"

While our little town is a far cry from even the "thrills" of Albuquerque, it is still large enough to hold a few potential surprises...

The Socorro Single Track

Want to get "out of town" but only have a little time? Enjoy hiking, mountain biking, or trail running? The Single Track, just north of EMRTC, consists of multiple loops winding their way through the southwestern desert. It provides fantastic views of Strawberry peak and the Quebradas mountains to give you a bit of perspective when Tech life gets tough.

An Interesting War Monument

Even those of us who took New Mexico history multiple times in grade school might not recall the role our state played in the Civil War. Some folks around Socorro definitely have not forgotten, though! South of the Desert Willow apartments but north of the cemetery, look for the flagpole and be prepared to learn a bit about our town.

Socorro Plaza

As is common in the southwest, Socorro has lovely little plaza. Located just down School of Mines road, it is the spot for town events: concerts, farmers markets, and marches, to name just a few!

Sweet Occasions Cupcakery

Just off of the plaza is the perfect place to satisfy your cravings for delicious baked goods. The cupcakes here are so exquisite you may never be the same, and the atmosphere is sweet too. Punch cards, essential for those of us who just can't stop going back, give you your sixth cupcake free!

The Rio Grande

The biggest river in the state might be shallow enough to wade across some times of the year, but it is still deep enough for some shenanigans! The NMT gym has canoes and kayaks available to rent or you can float down in your own inner tube. Be prepared for some wading or portaging, and just don't go barefoot or drink the water. You might see some herons or other wildlife.

The Socorro Bosque

For those not so interested in getting wet, there is also hiking along the river starting at the end of Otero street and going north. Although still in the process of being developed and a bit rough around the edges, this is another nice way to get out and about. Keep an eye out for wild hogs, javalenas, and wildfowl on the river.

Escondida Lake

Travel north past the Escondida exit of the highway, turn right across the train tracks, and you will behold a cute little lake, picnic area, and campground. This is a popular spot for fishing and family outings, or a good destination for a bike ride. Continue across the river to enter the Quebradas.



Dallin Sobers, SGA Vice President

Dallin Sobers is a sophomore in the Chemistry department here at New Mexico Tech, and is, as of recently, the SGA Vice President. Interested in Dallin's appointment, I went out to interview Dallin on his move into his position and his experience with it so far. However, while doing so, I uncovered interesting details about the SGA as they try to, in Dallin's own words, "play catch up" from the previous years.

-*"What position, if any, did you have before this one?"*

D: I was a Freshman Student Senator and Chairman of the Club Advisory Committee.

-*"What made you interested in this position?"*

D: Seeing how it worked throughout my time as a Senator. When I saw it open I decided to run.

-*"What history do you have with Student Government?"*

D: I was class officer in High School. We helped plan Prom. I also spent a year as President of the Albuquerque Youth Orchestra.

-*"How would you describe your transition so far?"*

D: The 'transition' is still ongoing. Half stumbling, half guided. I'm learning the office and also applying myself to it the best I can.

-*"What's your favorite part about Tech?"*

D: Balance between academia and socializing in the classroom. Even where all the classes are fast-paced, most professors go out of their way to have students socialize with each other.

-*"Least favorite part?"*

D: The amount of coursework.

-*"How about the SGA?"*

D: My favorite part is seeing people become passionate about something and being able to pursue it. My least favorite is definitely office politics; we have to be in communication all the time.



-*"Office politics? Can you elaborate?"*

D: Well, mostly passive aggressiveness. Playing favorites without disclosing who or why. Transparency, or at least honesty, is an issue. But I've done my best to not reciprocate or exaggerate.

-*"Do you think you inherited some office issues, excluding office politics?"*

D: Last year was a complete shit-show, at least at the beginning. A lot of playing catch up. I still get emails directed to Matt [the old SGA VP, Matthew Dougherty]. I inherited the whole thing, good and bad. They didn't even have a torch at the beginning of last year, had a year to do the best job they could, and then had to hand the torch off to us.

For those who don't know, at the end of the Fall semester 2017, the SGA President had charges brought against him for rewarding himself and a few executive members, not including the SGA VP, with 'salary adjustments' due to extra money within the SGA budget. Although the charges were dropped due to finding the adjustments constitutional, the issue lies in the fact that the adjustments were never brought to the attention of the Senate. This caused a lot of chaos at during the 2017/2018 school year and the beginning of the 2018/2019 school year.

Even now, as Dallin said, the SGA is still somewhat in 'clean-up' mode.

-*"What is your stance on the SGA budget, which recently got cuts?"*

D: It's hard to say I want more money without inadvertently saying I want to increase my salary. [The money] allows more opportunities for us to say yes to clubs, etc; a better student life outside of the classroom. [But now] we have fewer resources to give. When [clubs] are looking for grants, they will have to start looking elsewhere for the money.

-*"Do you think these cuts have to do with 2017's embezzlement charges?"*

D: It's not the school taking away money, there is a lack of money all around; I don't think it has to do with the school becoming hesitant to give the SGA more money because of embezzlement. Based on what I understand, a lot of seniors graduated, and not a lot of freshmen enrolled, resulting in a lack of money.

-*"Anything you want to let students know about the SGA and yourself?"*

D: We are the biggest bridge between the students and anyone else who, 'isn't a student.' And my door is always open.

Student Spotlights: Michelle Sherman and Dallin Sobers

"Being famous is wicked. But it's better to be normal." - Rupert Grint

Michelle Sherman, SGA President

Michelle Sherman is a senior pursuing a double major in Math and Electrical Engineering, and was recently elected to be Student Government Association (SGA) President. I decided to interview Michelle, who now has responsibilities such as representing the student body and overseeing the senate resting on her shoulders. I found out about who she is, how she got involved with the SGA, and what her goals for the next two semesters are.

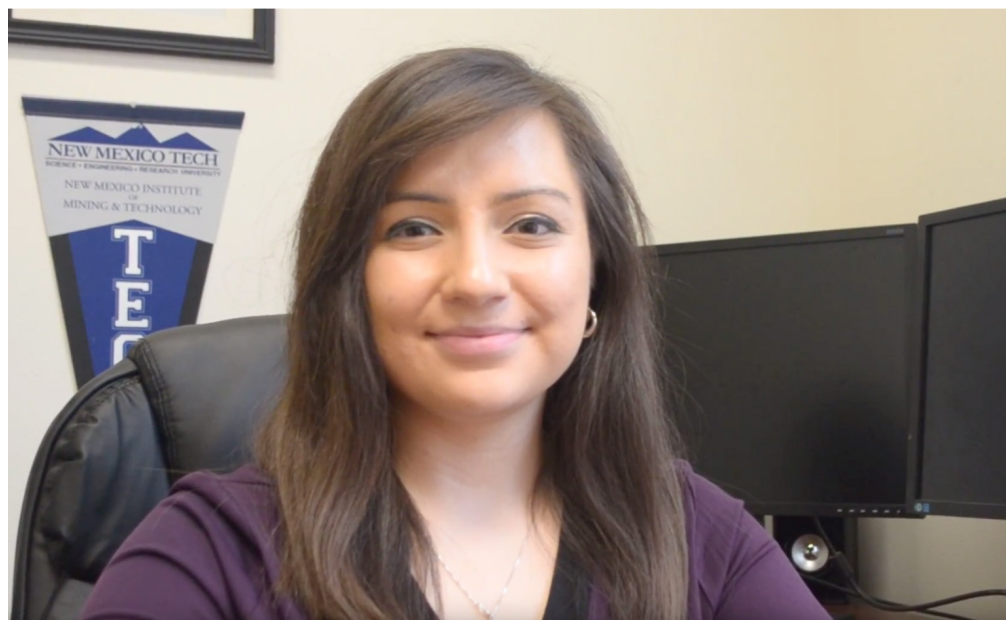
-How long have you been at Tech?

M: I started fall of 2017. I'm a transfer student. I went to the Masters Program in Santa Fe on the Santa Fe Community College campus. This program allowed me to take college classes while also having high school credit for those classes. Right away at 15 I was able to take a full college schedule, and at 18 I was able to graduate with two associates degrees in Physical Science and Engineering in the spring of 2017. Four days later I graduated from high school, so it was kind of interesting to graduate from college before high school.

-How did you get involved with the SGA?

M: I attended 49ers in fall 2017, but at that time I was really focused on school. It was later when I started to become involved; I participated in clubs and doing activities, like spring fling events and going to movie nights. That's when I noticed that hey, the SGA does all of these things with the Student Activities Board, I should try this out. So in the summer of 2018 I applied to be the student activities chair director, and got the position.

I started talking to the student activities chair reps and started planning things like the week one events, and then I started to have fun with it! That helped me to become more involved with the school, with the students, and learning about all the different backgrounds here. I was talking to students and it felt good, it felt nice.



-What is your favorite part about the SGA?

M: Being able to talk to the students, to see where they came from, what they want to see happen here on campus. If they have any concerns or anything I want to be able to address them, because we're really here for the students.

-What is the hardest part about leading the SGA?

M: This is definitely a step up from any previous experience I've had. I mean, I've led group projects before, but having to oversee the entire student body is definitely a step up. I feel like it's going to help me a lot, to shape the person I'm going to become. I think I'm going to learn a lot from it.

-What is something about being the President you'd like students to know?

M: One of my goals this year is to do a lot of outreach. As I'm sure you're aware, we've received a lot of budget cuts, not just the SGA but everywhere. So I want to get students to come here to Tech, so we have a better ratio between graduating classes. I want students to at least know Tech, to see what we have to offer. Another goal is to get more women here pursuing postsecondary degrees in the STEM fields.

-Tell me more about that.

M: There is a summit- STEM for Girls- for middle schoolers to get involved in STEM. We invite as many women as possible, and also of course men because we want men to support women in the workplace. We hold booths and workshops, to get the middle schoolers involved in building things, doing math and science. That's in October and I want to be a part of that.

-Any other advice for students?

M: One quote I really like is: "I didn't have a voice before, but now that I have it, I'm not going to be silent." I thought that was very inspiring, especially if you have a new leadership role because you have to have that voice. So if you have an idea, you should always feel ready to share it.

-Sometimes new can have a difficult time finding their place at Tech. Do you have anything to say to them?

M: If they need any advice, or have any questions, just come talk to me or anyone in the SGA office. Most of us are seniors so we've had that experience before, and we'll help them out in any way we can. They shouldn't feel afraid or like they don't have anyone to talk to, because we're students too.

Fresh Check Day Overview

Fresh Check Day is a campus event coming to New Mexico Tech on September 6th. The event will take place by the Gym from 11:00-3:00pm and will focus on promoting mental health awareness as well as suicide prevention.

The event first started in 2012 and then slowly expanded throughout the nation. Created by the Jordan Porco Foundation, the main goals of the program are to: reduce the number of misconceptions around mental health and suicide, increase awareness of mental health resources, increase understanding of warning signs, increase knowledge of what steps to take after those signs are seen, and increase student willingness to ask for help if they are experiencing emotional suffering.

This Friday, the event will consist of several booths that help meet these goals, including 100 Reasons, 9 out of 10, Be Yourself, Check In and Chill Out, Paint Your Art Out, and YOUUnique. 100 Reasons focuses on inspiring students and their peers through listing the many reasons to stay alive. 9 out of 10 empowers students to be 'gatekeepers' for their peers, teaching them to recognize and respond to warning signs. Be Yourself shines on not only self-acceptance, but acceptance of others for who they are. Check In and Chill Out teaches students to check in on their mental health and presents strategies to cope with stress. Paint Your Art Out reveals the therapeutic and associated benefits of art and creativity. Finally, YOUUnique promotes a positive self-image, discusses disordered eating habits common to college campuses, and offers additional methods to help struggling peers.

These booths and more will be present on the 6th for all students by the Gym. It is also important to note, there will be cats and dogs present as well.



Club Fair Photos

"I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member." - Groucho Marx

